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WEATHER
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NEW YORK SWEPT BY WEIRD STORM

Rain, Hail and Snow, Thunder
and Lightning, Accompanied
by Ninety-Mile Gale.

CHRISTMAS FOG AFTERMATH

Seven Persons Are Killed and
Communication Is Badly
Crippled.

NEW YORK, December 26.—One of the weirdest storms the East has seen in many years—rain, hail and snow, accompanied by thunder and lightning and a gale that reached a maximum velocity of ninety miles an hour—descended from the northwest early today as the aftermath of a Christmas fog. It indirectly caused seven deaths in this city, carried down telegraph wires, damaged shipping, crippled railroad traffic and caused considerable property damage.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING IN MIDST OF SNOWSTORM

The phenomenon of thunder and lightning in the midst of a driving snowstorm awakened New Yorkers at the height of the storm about 7 o'clock this morning. The local Weather Bureau reported a total precipitation of 5.2 inches, of which 2.5 was snow. The wind shifted to the northwest, and increased in violence, reaching its ninety-mile intensity at 9 o'clock, and continuing to blow with great force throughout the day, blowing in hundreds of plate-glass windows, hurling signs and copings to the streets, and demolishing several partly built structures.

The storm had its center in Massachusetts, and the telegraph service in New England has been badly crippled, although communication had not been entirely lost with the principal cities. Several land lines of the cable companies between New York and Nova Scotia were put out of business.

Shipping of all kinds scurried to shelter and several ocean liners dropped anchor until the gale abated. Twenty-five persons aboard fifteen canal boats driven ashore off Sandy Hook were rescued by the Coast Guard and the crew of the Coast Guard cutter Seneca. James O'Neil, in command of one of the boats, was knocked into the sea by a flying board and drowned.

A large ice tow of the tug Seneca, from Norfolk for New England, port sprang a leak and sank twelve miles east of Ambrose Lightship. Seven Erie Railroad barges, loaded with automobiles, sank in the East River.

SEVEN PERSONS KILLED AS RESULT OF STORM

The deaths in the city resulting from the gale all occurred this morning, while the blinding snowstorm was at its height. A fireman was fatally injured while responding to an alarm. A woman was run over by a street car, the motorman of which did not see her on the tracks. Another woman collapsed and died in the street while battling against the gale on her way to church. Scores of persons were more or less seriously injured.

A flagman at Totenville, Staten Island, was blown in front of a train and killed instantly. A bicyclist, riding in a heavy rain, ran into an automobile at Mineola and was fatally injured. His wife, who was riding with him, suffered injuries from which she may die. An aged man fell on an icy pavement in Newark and died of a fractured skull on his way to a hospital. The Reformed Church at New Brighton, Staten Island, was struck by lightning and seriously damaged. Wind tore the roof off the hospital ward of the Newark, N. J., city almshouse, and two elderly women patients were injured by falling beams. Part of the roof also was blown off the building in which aged women are housed on Blackwell Island.

A crowded tenement house of Passaic, N. J., was unroofed, as was a church in Brooklyn just before the morning service began.

NARRAGANSETT BAY IS LASHED BY STORM

HISTON, R. I., December 26.—A seventy-mile gale, with squalls of even greater force, lashed Narragansett Bay to-day, doing much damage along the water front and backing up the highest tide in years.

Later the wind whirled suddenly from southwest to northwest, blowing with even greater force, driving the tide out and causing one of the lowest tides ever seen here.

GALE CARRIES SNOW AND RAIN AT SEVENTY MILES AN HOUR

BOSTON, December 26.—A gale which carried snow and rain at a velocity of seventy miles an hour damaged electric wire circuits, leveled chimneys, unroofed buildings and uprooted trees in this city and many other parts of New England to-day. Along the coast small boats in harbor were torn from their moorings and cast ashore.

The British schooner Mayflower, bound for St. John, N. B., with coal, disabled by the gale, was in a precarious position near the breakers off Cape Ann to-night, and it was feared that she would pound to pieces. Members of her crew were rescued by Coast Guards.

In Manchester, N. H., and Lewiston, Bangor and Portland, Me., the storm interrupted traffic and telephone and telegraph communication.

The island also felt the effects of the storm severely, much damage being caused to property along the shores of Narragansett Bay by a high tide, damage to telegraph lines was reported in Vermont.

NEW FULLMAN BUFFET PARLOR CAR
Between New York and Danville
via Southern Railway daily. Leave Richmond 10:30 A. M., arrive Danville 5:15 P. M. Returning, leave the city, via N. E. R., arrive Richmond 5:30 P. M.

Mob Seeks to Force Entrance Into Jail

Several Hundred Men Trying to
Get Negroes, While Troops
Guard Prisoners.

MUSKOGEE, OKLA., December 26.—

William Green and Mathis Foreman, negroes, were spirited out of the county jail here late to-night and taken to another city for safe-keeping, while a mob of several hundred men were making preparations to storm the jail in force and lynch them.

The prisoners were taken from the jail dressed in military men's uniforms. Although twice repulsed by State troops, a mob of several hundred men remained in the vicinity of the county jail here late to-night apparently preparing to make further attempts to gain entrance to the prison and lynch the negroes, who were charged with killing Samuel Neal, a policeman, early to-day.

Officers who arrested the negroes aboard a train near Muskogee declare they admitted shooting Neal when he attempted to arrest them as burglar suspects.

The mob began forming late to-day, and at nightfall a full company of militia was ordered out to assist in guarding the crowd to prevent its entrance to the jail, but the troops, with fixed bayonets, cleared the streets. Half an hour later the mob made another rush and, charging through the lines of the militia and sheriff's deputies, forced the crowd back before any could get inside the building.

Prominent citizens of Muskogee late to-night were hurried to the jail, where they exhorted the crowd to disperse.

Few of the mob left, however. In a vacant lot just across from the jail were 200 armed negroes, who sent word to the officers that if Green and Foreman were taken from the jail, the negroes would open fire from where they crouched in the tall grass and underbrush.

The negroes refused to surrender their firearms, and city and county officials dared not make a temporary demand for fear of precipitating a race riot. The situation was regarded by authorities as serious.

Neal was a Cherokee Indian, and it was reported at midnight that a number of his tribesmen had started from Tahlequah, twenty-five miles northwest of Muskogee, to join the mob.

INCAS' TREASURE NOT FOUND

United States Post-Office Inspector
Falls in Six-Weeks Search for
Buried Millions.

COLON, PANAMA, December 26.—Harry A. Barber, a United States post-office inspector, who has been in the interior of Peru six weeks trying to locate the buried treasure of the Incas, will start for Washington to-morrow, having, it is understood, failed in his quest.

Inspector Barber was sent to Peru to investigate for the Federal authorities at Wilmington, Del., the alleged existence of a \$500,000,000 placer gold deposit, which figures prominently in the McCune case, in which the Du Ponts and other leading Delaware firms are mentioned. McCune, it is said, floated a large corporation on the strength of having discovered the source of the gold of the ancient Incas. He finally became involved with the Post-Office Department, and is now at liberty under \$10,000 bail.

COLONEL TO PROTEST

Wants It Understood He Is Not Serious
Biting for Nomination Any More
Than Justice Hughes.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
OYSTER BAY, December 26.—Colonel Roosevelt, it was announced to-night, will protest against the placing of his name on the Michigan Progressive presidential ballot.

A spokesman for the former President said:

"The Colonel will not willingly allow his name to go upon any presidential ballot, Progressive or Republican."

"This position has been, and is, that he will not enter the presidential primaries of either party. Should he be nominated he would be inclined to accept. But he wishes it understood that he is not scrambling for the nomination any more than is Justice Hughes."

GREECE FAVORABLY ASSURED

Italian Government Will Safeguard All
Hellenic Interests in
Albania.

PARIS, December 26.—"The Greek government has taken cognizance of the recent landing of Italian troops near Avlona (Albania), and in a friendly spirit directed the Greek minister at Rome to request information upon the extent and purpose of the Italian enterprise," says the Athens correspondent of the Havas Agency. He continued:

"In answer, the Italian government gave favorable assurances and requested the co-operation of Greece in conducting the work to a successful conclusion. The negotiations continue, the two governments being agreed that Greek rights in this region should be safeguarded."

PERSIAN CABINET FALLS

Prince Firman Firman Is New Premier,
Indicating Great Victory for
Entente Allies.

LONDON, December 26.—"The Persian Cabinet has fallen," says the Tehran correspondent of Reuters' Telegram Company. Prince Firman Firman has been nominated Premier by the Shah. This is considered a great diplomatic victory for the entente allies.

Prince Firman Firman was appointed a member of the Persian Cabinet in November. A news dispatch at that time said that the prince was considered Russophile.

PEACE ON EARTH, THROUGH VICTORY

That Is Spirit Which Pervades
Soldiers in Trenches on
Christmas Eve.

SEASON IS CELEBRATED

Santa Claus Visits Battle Line
Amid Rattle of Ma-
chine Guns.

AIRAS, ON THE FRENCH FRONT,
December 26.—Hundreds of big shells

fore the air over Airas all Friday afternoon. The echoes of these were the last compliments of the season, and they had no sooner died away than the life of Airas began to show itself through reopened cellar doors and windows in preparation for the usual Christmas Eve festivities. The people of the Airas region rise above their afflictions, due to the war, and the spirit of Airas survives among the heaps of ruins.

STILLNESS OF DEATH SETTLES OVER CITY

After the usual systematic shelling died down, rifle shots and the occasional rattle of machine guns were all that broke the stillness of death that settled over the city. The cathedral, where midnight mass was said last year under the thunder of cannon, stood out against the twilight in ragged ruins like a specter, with crumbling walls of demolished buildings all around it. The aspect of a giant cemetery with great headstones. The rattle of machine guns struck up again, and a few rifle shots rang through the clear air. Toward 8 o'clock the soft strains of an organ were heard from an invisible source. Going through heaps of stone and glass to a chapel entrance, one could see a candlelight flickering through the darkness a short distance away. Staff officers, waiting for dinner, led the correspondent for the Associated Press to an adjoining room, which resembled the crater of a miniature, extinct volcano.

SANTA CLAUS AND CHRISTMAS SPIRIT PRESENT ALONG LINES

Santa Claus and the Christmas spirit, notwithstanding the war, were in evidence everywhere along the Airas battle front, where the correspondent passed Christmas Eve. They were in the trenches and shelters with the simple soldiers; in the high barracks, where the traditional Christmas Eve theater was replaced by an improvised concert and vaudeville that almost rivaled the American. An officer explained that this was partly due to habit.

"Fuses are set off every night," the officer explained, "even when the moon shines brightly as to-night, and, besides, the Germans may, as last year, have an idea that we are going at them before morning."

The fuses multiplied at the approach of midnight, and on the stroke of 12 the line as far as the horizon was illuminated as by a long line of brilliant stars. Flashes of different colors could be seen far away to the north, although no reports were heard.

SOLDIERS ENTERTAINED WITH SIMPLE FOLK SONGS

"They are firing away up there around Souchez," a lieutenant explained, several miles up the deep, wide ditch, with twelve inches of chalky mud at its bottom. Just far enough from the German line to permit tranquil sleep, soldiers entertained each other with simple folk songs of their home regions, and exchanged parcels from home and talked of victory. One soldier read a little note from home, which said: "This year it is I who play father. This year I broke open my savings bank, and am sending presents to you at the front." The soldier didn't explain who the writer was, but his thick, coarse beard failed to hide a touching smile with which he accepted the reversal of Christmas roles.

Meanwhile, the impromptu concert in the trenches went on in tones that were light, gay and confident. The same phrase was heard in all the toasts given here. It was "peace through victory."

All along the roads in this region two lines passed in different directions. Some with pick, shovel and rifle were going to take their turn in the trenches, while others were going back to the old village church to swell the congregation.

PEACE THROUGH VICTORY IS ATTITUDE OF SERVICE

Officers, including generals, colonels, captains and lieutenants, with a sprinkling of civilians and many women, were in attendance. As in the quarters of the soldiers near the service brought out the same note: Peace through victory. A chaplain, with the red ribbon of the Legion of Honor on his surplice, who had lost several brothers and has four more in the army, all of whom have been cited in orders of the day, and he himself twice cited for heroic conduct, preached on "Peace Through Victory."

A stretcher-bearer, with a military medal, and a grenadier, with a war cross on his breast, sang a Christmas anthem, to the accompaniment of the modest old organ, played by a simple soldier, with such a master hand that the strains were quite as inspiring as the best cathedral music. The last notes, "Peace on earth, good will toward men," died away as the congregation was filling out of the little church, while in the distance the booming of cannon recalled "no truce for Christmas."

FATE OF BRITAIN IN LABOR'S HANDS

Lloyd George Appeals to Union
Men to Help Quickly and
Thoroughly.

TWO ALTERNATIVES FACED

One to Admit Failure to Men in
Trenches, and Other Confess
Defeat to Kaiser.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

LONDON, December 26.—If the skilled workers of Great Britain do not agree to relax or suspend their union rules we face two alternatives," declared David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, addressing 3,000 Clyde union officials and workshop stewards at Glasgow on Christmas.

"We can go to the trenches and say to the soldiers: 'We are sorry we cannot get the necessary guns to enable you to win through in 1916, because trade union regulations stand in the way. If you hold out another year, perhaps American workmen will help us get you a sufficient supply for 1917.'"

"The other alternative is that we send to the Kaiser and tell him frankly that we cannot go on. He might let us off with the annexation of Belgium, the payment of a huge indemnity, and with a British colony or two. He certainly would demand, however, that Great Britain surrender her command of the sea, and Great Britain then would be as completely at the mercy of Prussian despotism as Belgium is to-day."

FURTHER DELAY, HE SAYS, MEANS FURTHER LOSSES

"I cannot believe that the skilled workmen of Great Britain will give us this answer. Time is vital, time is victory, and time is life. There have already been 330,000 casualties, including more than 300,000 since the agreement between the trades unions and the government in March. Further delay means further losses. I appeal to the workmen to help us quickly and thoroughly."

"Victory is not possible unless the British workman follows the example of his French comrades, and sets aside every rule and regulation that tangles the footsteps of victory."

Lloyd George was urging that the unions suspend their rules against women in order that a greater number of skilled workers might be diverted to munition factories. Upon the number of heavy guns and projectiles that could be produced, he declared, depended the fate of the army. The Minister of Munitions explained how the gun and ammunition factories were being organized, and declared that 50,000 skilled workmen were needed for the new factories.

"The Russian retreat," he said, "was due to the aid the German workman gave his comrades in the field by manufacturing an endless supply of guns and shells."

"The French workmen have enabled France to successfully face this terrible machine."

"I cannot go back to Parliament and report to the House of Commons and through the Commons to the army, that British workmen won't relax or suspend their rules to save fellow-workmen's lives on the battle field."

MAGNITUDE OF WAR NOT FULLY REALIZED

"I wonder how many people fully realize the magnitude of this war and its tremendous issues. At times, I fear they treat it merely as a passing shower. But it is not a passing shower. It is the deluge. It is a deluge, which is tearing up by its roots the ornamental plants of modern society and wrecking some of the dimly treasured bridges of modern civilization."

"It is an earthquake which is upheaving the very rocks of European life. It is one of those seismic disturbances in which nations leap forward, or fall backward generations in a single bound."

"All this depending about relaxing a rule and suspending a custom is out of place. You cannot haggle with an earthquake."

"I beg the skilled workmen of this country, in whose keeping are the destinies of labor, to lift up their eyes above the mists of distrust and suspicion and ascend the height of the greatest opportunity that ever opened before their class. By so doing there will emerge after this war that future hope which the great leaders of democracy of all ages have pictured in their dreams."

During his speech Lloyd George was frequently interrupted by scolding remarks.

POSSE RESCUES DEPUTY

He Barred Himself in Cabin to Escape
Crown of Farmers, Who
Threatened to Lynch Him.

MOUNTAIN HOME, ARK., December 26.—Alonso Trimble, a deputy sheriff, was rescued to-day by a sheriff's posse from a cabin near here in which he had barricaded himself to escape a crowd of farmers who, Trimble declared, threatened to lynch him because of the wounding of Howard Avery, a farmer. Avery resisted arrest when he attempted to quell a disturbance at a Christmas celebration. He will be held pending an investigation.

WHOLESALE PRICES FALL

Nearly 1 Per Cent Lower in 1914 Than
During Year Before, Says Bureau
of Labor Statistics Report.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 26.—Wholesale prices in the United States were nearly 1 per cent lower in 1914 than during the year before, according to a bulletin issued to-night by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Decided decreases in the prices of clothing, fuel, metals and building materials more than offset increases on farm products and foods.

TO URGE RUSH WORK ON DEFENSE PLANS

President Wants Congress to
Concentrate Attention on Pre-
paredness Program.

TAKES AUTO RIDE WITH WIFE

Receives Great Package of Let-
ters and Messages From
White House.

HOT SPRINGS, VA., December 26.—

Congress will be urged by President Wilson to concentrate its attention upon the administration's national defense program immediately after the Christmas holidays.

It was learned here to-night that while the President has no desire to see the preparedness plans rushed through without full consideration and debate, he is most anxious to have the army and navy bills disposed of as promptly as possible. He not only believes it is essential to put the War and Navy Departments in a position to begin work on their new programs without delay, but wants the congressional calendars cleared for general legislation later in the winter.

Show fell here all night last night, covering the ground to a depth of more than a foot. This did not keep the President and his bride from having their daily automobile ride, which lasted an hour and a half. The President's stenographer, who went to Washington for Christmas, returned to-day, bringing a great package of letters and messages from the White House.

A meeting in the hotel to-night, under the auspices of the Marine and Marchioness of Aberdeen, was addressed by Mrs. Seth Barton French, recently returned from her Red Cross work in France. The President and Mrs. Wilson declined invitations to attend.

The President will celebrate his fifty-ninth birthday on Tuesday. He will be surprised at dinner with a great birthday cake, bearing fifty-nine candles, which the hotel management to-day ordered the chef to prepare. Officials of the volunteer fire department here, having heard of the President's election as an honorary member of the Pass Christian, Miss, department two years ago, have invited him to attend a celebration at the firehouse on Tuesday night. Mr. Wilson's membership to his list. Mr. Wilson won his place in the Pass Christian organization by aiding it in putting out a fire.

ONLY TWO BIG MATTERS READY FOR CONSIDERATION

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
WASHINGTON, December 26.—Only two big legislative matters will be out of committee and ready for consideration by Congress when it reconvenes. These are:

The land-mortgage bill, framed by the joint committee appointed by the last Congress to consider rural credit legislation.

The so-called conservation program of the administration.

The land-mortgage bill has been completed by a subcommittee, and is expected to be passed on to both houses of Congress by the full committee at a meeting on January 3. The measure provides a general scheme of land loan banking modeled somewhat after the present Federal reserve banking system. It will meet some vigorous opposition in both House and Senate. Another measure, providing for personal rural credit banking, will be framed by the joint committee later.

CONSERVATION MEASURES SOON READY FOR ACTION

The Public Lands Committee of the House, which is working through the holiday recess, expects to have three conservation measures ready for action in the House on January 4. The committee already has agreed to report the administration water-power bill providing for the leasing of water-power sites in Federal jurisdiction. It is now working on bills authorizing the leasing of coal, oil, gas and phosphate lands on the public domain, and providing for an enlarged homestead for settlers on grazing lands. All three of these bills passed the House in the last Congress, but died in the Senate.

Preparedness, both military and naval, is certain to encounter long delays. Both Military and Naval Affairs Committees in the House have promised public hearings on the administration proposals. The Naval Committee hearings will begin on January 5, and the Military Committee hearings soon afterwards. The hearings will continue for weeks. The delay in preparedness measures ready for action in the House is to avoid action on revenue until the extent of the increased expenditures authorized for preparedness can be estimated with some degree of accuracy.

BEHIND IN CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATION BILLS

In addition to the general legislation, which is dragging along, Congress is behind in the consideration of appropriation bills. None of the big supply bills has yet been reported out of committee to the House, and the committee are all behind in considering them. Usually two of the supply bills are passed before the holiday adjournment. With the press of general legislation, Congress will have difficulty enacting the necessary appropriation bills before the present funds are exhausted on July 1.

Soon after the recess the Senate will be confronted with the pending treaties awaiting confirmation. The treaties with Colombia and Nicaragua growing out of the Panama canal negotiations will meet opposition that is expected to defeat them. The new Haitian treaty will probably be vigorously criticized.

RUEGER'S NEW YEAR'S EVE—RUEGER'S

Special high-class entertainment, Grill Room, 5 1/2 till midnight. Tickets, 50c. Extra Music. Reserve your table now.

Deserts Ford Party



Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain.

MRS. BOISSEVAIN QUILTS FORD'S PEACE TOURISTS

She Believes Project Is Doomed to
Failure Because of Undemocratic
Methods Employed.

REFUGANT TO HER PRINCIPLES

Tells Delegates That Lack of Organ-
ization Is Responsible for Dissem-
sions and Inability to Get Ideas in
Comprehensive Shape.

STOCKHOLM (via London), Decem-
ber 26.—Mrs. Inez Milholland Boisse-
vain, of New York, who withdrew from

the Ford peace expedition on Saturday, presented at a public meeting of the delegates to-day a long statement of her reasons for doing so and for believing the project was doomed to failure.

"The undemocratic method employed by the managers of the expedition is repugnant to my principles," she said. "Instead of all the members formulating plans, the work has been confined to a few specially selected persons. When the party embarked on the Oscar II, I took it for granted that the rather vague opinion of the body of delegates would be hammered into effective shape by group action and constructive thinking throughout the voyage."

TRACES MISUNDERSTANDINGS TO LACK OF ORGANIZATION

"An organization was not formed until three days before the end of the voyage. To that fact I trace all misunderstandings, dissensions, miscarriage in policy, inefficiency and inability to get the idea of a mediation peace congress in comprehensive shape before the public."

"The organization, when finally formed, was abortive. The Scandinavian public which expected clear thinking and a definite program, were skeptical about the seriousness of the delegates. At the meetings the discussions have been purely private, with the result of ill feeling, speculations and condemnation. For the reasons stated, I am unable to continue with the party."

DEPARTURE OF FORD REGARDED AS HANDICAP

Since the departure of the expedition from New York three weeks ago, no meetings have been held at which peace plans were discussed. Discussions have taken place about the dinner tables, and between meals the delegates went sightseeing. Mr. Ford's leaving the party on account of sickness last week is regarded as a serious handicap.

Rev. Charles E. Aked, of San Francisco, Judge Ben B. Lindsey, of Denver, and others believe the expedition should proceed to The Hague to carry out the original plan as far as possible. This will result in the formation of a permanent committee of persons from neutral countries to sit at The Hague to adopt ways and means.

EXPECT FORD TO MARK IMPORTANT PEACE MOVE

Each of the seven members of the peace expedition, whom Mr. Ford left in executive charge after his departure expressed confidence to-day that the project would mark an important move toward European peace. All agreed, however, that the plan had seemingly insuperable obstacles. Members of the committee believe that, while peace is hardly possible before spring, yet the presence of the expedition traveling through neutral countries will convince the belligerents of the ardent desire of all neutrals for peace. The Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, chairman of the executive committee, said:

"There has been more talk of peace since our arrival here than ever before, and the more peace talk there is, the greater is the desire for peace. We know we are undertaking a seemingly impossible task, yet we believe in the possibility of our time more opportune for peace lovers to be united for humanity," said the Rev. Dr. Aked. "We have pacifists of America, Norway and Sweden, and we will have others from Denmark and Holland as soon as we reach those countries, and Switzerland and Spain will send delegates to join us at The Hague."

Similar views were expressed by Mrs. Joseph Fels, Judge Lindsey, Frederick Holt, Benjamin W. Hunsbush, Mrs. William B. Lloyd and others.

It was said that Mr. Ford and William J. Bryan would both appear at the peace meeting to be held at The Hague. Mrs. Fels said:

"When we begin our sessions at The Hague ten days hence, the world will see more behind the peace movement than is generally known. We confidently expect that not only the belligerents will show a disposition to listen."

ASQUITH BLAMED FOR CONDUCT OF ENGLISH AFFAIRS

Steady Growth of Newspa-
per Attacks on Gov-
ernment.

LLOYD GEORGE ONLY ONE ADVANCED FOR SUCCESSION

Burden of Criticism Is Lack of
Decision and Mismanagement
of Dardanelles Campaign.

PROBABILITIES AT SALONIKI

Speculation Over Development of
Attack Upon Entente Allies
Continues.

Germans Preparing to Strike at Saloniki

WITH the Germans assembling a large army for action against the entente forces in front of Saloniki, and large masses of Bulgarian troops still remaining on Serbian soil, the undetermined attitude of Greece makes it uncertain as to what the next move will be in the Balkan campaign. Meanwhile, the British and French are adding to their strength around Saloniki in men, guns and defenses. Without the Bulgarians, a British correspondent at Saloniki says the Germans will not attack, and Greece has been strongly opposed all along to Bulgarian troops entering her territory.

It is also reported from Athens that King Constantine does not desire to make a change in his ministry until the chamber reassembles the last of January, and, therefore, the present Cabinet will remain in power, and it is reported that the new chamber may be convoked before that date.

A Paris dispatch says that in the heavy fighting a few days before Christmas, the German and Austrian battalions, the German suffered a loss of more than 8,000 men without gaining ground. An intense artillery action has been in progress on the Austro-Italian front, although there has been no change in the position there. From Russia comes word of comparative quiet.

The Turkish War Office reports that the British forces at Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia, are in process of being surrounded, but the British commander, General Townshend, reports that, while his forces have been under artillery and rifle fire, no attempt at assault has been made.

LONDON, December 26.—Christmas passed without heavy fighting anywhere on the European fronts. It passed also without a truce, which gave a touch of humanity to Christmas Day a year ago. The United Kingdom, however, witnesses a general abandonment of the truce between the political parties which has been observed during the earlier months of the war, and which apparently was cemented for the duration of the war when the coalition government was formed. The past week has seen a steady growth of the newspapers' attacks on the Government, the general burden of which is the slowness, the lack of foresight and decision, and the mismanagement of the Dardanelles enterprise. While all newspapers disclaim any partisan motives, all the prominent ones participating in the campaign belong to the Conservative party, with the exception of the Manchester Guardian.

The newspapers generally hold Premier Asquith responsible for the conduct of affairs. The Northcliffe group, headed by the Times and the Daily Mail, with the support of the Morning Post, was